Decontrol of Farm Output

*345. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to consider decontrol of farm output particularly in the light of sharp increase in agricultural input cost to the extent of 30 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to protect the interests of farmers with periodical increase in input cost; and

(d) what administrative and legislative measures are being taken to effect policy change ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b) There is no control on farm output.

(c) The minimum support prices announced by the Government provide for the possible rise in cost of production and input prices. The changes, if any, in the prices of inputs are considered by the CACP while making its recommendations to the Government. The CACP has been asked to have a second look at the changes in input costs before the market arrival of the crops and adjust minimum support prices in case the observed rise in input costs turns to be higher than the anticipated rise.

(d) Does not arise.

Conversion of leasehold flats/plots to Freehold in Delhi

*347. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make the conversion of built-up flats and plots measuring upto 150 sq. metres from leasehold to freehold, optional in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the orders issued in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In accordance with the scheme of conversion launched on 14-2-1992, the conversion of leasehold tenure of land in respect of flats and built-up plots upto 150 sq. metres was compulsory. However, keeping in view the representations received for rationalising the scheme, it has been decided to make conversion optional. Thus the lesses now have the option either to convert to freehold tenure or continue to be governed by the lease terms.

Financial Assistance to persons Distinguished in arts and letters

*348. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for providing financial assistance to persons distinquished in letters. Arts, and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances;

(b) the total amount of financial assistance provided to such persons under this scheme in different categories during the last three years as on 31st January, 1993, State-wise; and

(c) What are the details of the total budgetary allocation for the scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a)Creative persons in different fields of arts who have made significant contribution in their field, who are above 58 years of age and whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 1000/- are eligible for consideration.